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Report of infectious disease in Japan, from September 24 to September 30, 1896.

Locality.	Cholera.		Dysentery.		Smallpox.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Kioto Fu.....			56	17	1	
Osaka Fu.....			77	21	1	
Tokyo Fu.....	1		173	(*)	6	
Aichi Ken.....			543	143	1	
Akita Ken.....			200	21		
Awomori Ken.....			20	3		
Chiba Ken.....			81	20		
Fukuoka Ken.....			73	27		
Fukushima Ken.....			4	1		
Gumma Ken.....			479	136		
Hiogo Ken.....			71	23	34	42
Hiroshima Ken.....			203	90		
Ibaraki Ken.....			7	2		
Ishikawa Ken.....			181	64		
Kagoshima Ken.....			104	32		
Kanagawa Ken.....			70	11	6	1
Kochi Ken.....			102	31		
Kumamoto Ken.....			31	8		
Miyazaki Ken.....			33	8		
Nagasaki Ken.....			30	6		
Nara Ken.....			54	16		
Oita Ken.....			99	25		
Oyama Ken.....			227	77		
Okinawa Ken.....			4			
Saga Ken.....			5	5		
Saitama Ken.....			308	61		
Shizuoka Ken.....			171	31		
Shimane Ken.....			490	134		
Tokushima Ken.....			107	32	1	
Tottori Ken.....			93	31		
Toyama Ken.....			38	18		
Yamaguchi Ken.....			87	35		
Yamanashi Ken.....			178	40		
Yehime Ken.....			92	22		
The Hokkaido.....			33	2	3	
Total.....	1		4,524	1,243	53	43

*No report.

SPAIN.

Report on leprosy in the Marquisate of Denia.

DENIA, SPAIN, September 26, 1896.

SIR: The township of Pedreguer for agricultural importance is one of the foremost in the Marquisate of Denia. Situate at the base of a large mountain, it has sanitary and drainable advantages over the plain of Denia in that it is higher. From the sea and plain it is a picturesque looking place, and apparently a cleanly neighborhood. Nevertheless, leprosy has been the scourge of these poor people for a century.

The greater number of the inhabitants are vintagers, and when not engaged in that vocation they devote their time to plaiting palm hats, matting, etc.

This form of leprosy is not a plague, neither is it one of those afflictions that for its character is highly contagious and epidemic, causing rapid and terrible ravages in the population. It is less than that; the process is morbid.

Leprosy as it is here is a morbid state known through all epochs and ages, and described with more or less exactitude. It is sometimes confounded with other skin diseases. It seldom attacks more than one person in a like manner, but the final stages of the disease and its development are about the same in most cases. The face, the arms from the elbows to the finger-tips, and the lower limbs are the parts most frequently affected, presenting numerous tubercles, some hard and

fixed, others changeable in form and position, some ulcerous and others suppurative with variable color, but ordinarily of a whitish appearance. The mucous of the palate and of the larynx presents a yellowish color with granulations and minute tubercles of variable number and size. The stomach is nearly always sound, whilst the intestines are inflamed and the glands ulcerated, etc. Frequently in the final stages the fingers and toes drop off at the joints.

Besides those cases that have never been reported, there are about 90 on record at the present time. The first recorded case was in 1819.

Many authorities on pathology admit, or have admitted, as causes more or less determined of this affliction, humidity, use of raw pork, respiration of humid air, bad water, use of fish in a state of decomposition, repeated isolation, acidulous and over-pungent food, abuse of alcoholic beverages, grief, misery, privation, etc. The causes ascribed by a local physician are predisposition on the one hand and on the other inobservance of hygienic precepts.

The rude labor to which the peasantry of Pedaguer and vicinity devote themselves requires considerable muscular force, which necessarily, under the rays of the hot sun, keeps them in constant perspiration. The sweat mixed with the dust of the soil forms a paste that adheres to the body like a gum or varnish, which, consequently, impedes the functions of the skin, causing herpes and other cutaneous affections. Again, consider the fact that many, if not all, of these laborers have never in their brief existence made use of a bath—not even in the saline Mediterranean, which is adjacent. Some even believe it a crime to wash their faces, whilst children, as a rule, among this class never have their heads washed; the result is they are always seen with a black coating on their scalps. These people ignore ablution as a prerequisite of sound health and mind. Naturally, one must admit, these conditions do not tend to exterminate disease. Very salty food in bad state of conservation is used extensively by this class, which assists in developing leprosy.

The duration of the disease is from ten to thirty years. Prognosis, always grave; no complete recoveries.

There are diverse opinions relative to the contagiousness of this kind of leprosy. Some claim it contagious while others say it is infectious only. For example: One leper gave birth to a child, nursed it, and at the age of ten years it was to all appearance a sound boy. Again: A pig which was fed with the scraps from the table of a leper was given to a poor woman for meat for the winter; she was attacked with leprosy before she had finished the pig.

The opinion of a local physician may be worth quoting: "In my conception leprosy to-day can be considered only as a sporadic affection which does not invade more than one person at a time in one place, however, it may be transmitted to many more by the person attacked. It owes its existence to a concurrence of causes more or less known and to predisposition. It is sometimes caused by erysipelas, herpes, and papulous affections, and it is unequivocally inheritable."

To the vulgar of this locality, leprosy is an affliction of horrible and repugnant aspect; incurable, eminently contagious, and transmittable through direct or indirect contact; also, through infection.

To those devoted to the science of Esculapius, leprosy is not a disease exclusively of the skin, but more a morbidly constitutional state, contagious only in direct and immediate contact.

ANDREW F. FAY,
United States Consul.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.